

have talked frequently about this. I speak about it and focus on it because it is such a driver for the costs of health care and health insurance.

What has Congress done to fix this problem? Unfortunately, absolutely nothing. In fact, the new Medicare law failed to do anything to lower prescription drug prices. At the same time approximately 3 million retirees will actually lose their prescription drug coverage under this new law. This bill actually takes us backward instead of forward.

The only major health care coverage initiative this administration has proposed is actually for the Iraqi people. Our country has made a commitment to moving forward with universal health coverage for all Iraqi citizens. We have provided \$950 million to build hospitals and clinics in Iraq.

Please do not misunderstand what I am saying. I certainly want to be supportive of efforts to provide health care in Iraq.

What about us? What about Americans? I also want to help American families who are working hard every day, playing by the rules in this great country, and struggling to pay their bills and care for their families. I think we can help both the people of Iraq and Americans at the same time. It is our moral obligation, I believe, to make sure we are helping American families as well as others.

Mr. President, working families deserve access to affordable care for themselves and for their families. It is going to take leadership to accomplish this. The administration has had almost 4 years to take action, and it has not.

I believe it is time for bold change. I believe that when we are looking at the price of prescription drugs, we need to take out that provision in the new Medicare law that says Medicare cannot negotiate for group discounts. That is pretty basic. We know that one of the main ways you are able to lower prescription drug prices, or the price of any product, is to be able to get a group discount. Everybody knows that. Yet, in this new Medicare law, Medicare is specifically prohibited from doing that. Who benefits from that? Certainly not the taxpayers, certainly not American seniors or the disabled, and American families certainly don't benefit from that. The prescription drug industry benefits from that. What we have seen under the new Medicare law, rather than providing lower prices for people, we have 40 million seniors who are being locked into paying top dollar, and that makes absolutely no sense.

We can do something about that. We can make changes in the Medicare law so it works for people. We can also lower prices immediately by simply allowing the local pharmacists at the local drugstores in America to be able to do business with pharmacists in Canada or other countries, where they can provide FDA-approved drugs and

processes and bring the prescription drugs—actually made in America—back to America so we can get the same deal everybody else gets around the world.

We have a wonderful, bipartisan bill that has been put together. I am hopeful that we will bring it to the Senate floor as soon as possible and that we are able to pass what is called re-importation of prescription drugs and lower prices. I am very hopeful and I am proud to be a cosponsor of Senator DASCHLE's effort and vision to say that, by 2006, we are going to make a commitment that every American has access at least to the same level of health care that we receive. This is one of the few instances where employees—elected officials—have better health care and benefits than the employers. It is time to turn that around. It is time to make a commitment.

Medicare, after it was passed, was put together in 1 year. We have great American ingenuity. If we are bold and have a vision and have a right priority, we can make sure that a year from now we are talking about the implementation of health insurance for everyone that is affordable and available to every single American.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded. Morning business is closed.

#### INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 1248, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1248) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1248

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2003".]

#### TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

##### ISEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

[Parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) are amended to read as follows:

#### ["PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### ["SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

["(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the 'Individuals with Disabilities Education Act'.

["(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

#### ["PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

["Sec. 601. Short title; table of contents; findings; purposes.

["Sec. 602. Definitions.

["Sec. 603. Office of Special Education Programs.

["Sec. 604. Abrogation of State sovereign immunity.

["Sec. 605. Acquisition of equipment; construction or alteration of facilities.

["Sec. 606. Employment of individuals with disabilities.

["Sec. 607. Requirements for prescribing regulations.

["Sec. 608. State administration.

["Sec. 609. Report to Congress

#### ["PART B—ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

["Sec. 611. Authorization; allotment; use of funds; authorization of appropriations.

["Sec. 612. State eligibility.

["Sec. 613. Local educational agency eligibility.

["Sec. 614. Evaluations, eligibility determinations, individualized education programs, and educational placements.

["Sec. 615. Procedural safeguards.

["Sec. 616. Monitoring, technical assistance, and enforcement.

["Sec. 617. Administration.

["Sec. 618. Program information.

["Sec. 619. Preschool grants.

#### ["PART C—INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES

["Sec. 631. Findings and policy.

["Sec. 632. Definitions.

["Sec. 633. General authority.

["Sec. 634. Eligibility.

["Sec. 635. Requirements for statewide system.

["Sec. 636. Individualized family service plan.

["Sec. 637. State application and assurances.

["Sec. 638. Uses of funds.

["Sec. 639. Procedural safeguards.

["Sec. 640. Payor of last resort.

["Sec. 641. State Interagency Coordinating Council.

["Sec. 642. Federal administration.

["Sec. 643. Allocation of funds.

["Sec. 644. Authorization of appropriations.

#### ["PART D—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

["Sec. 650. Findings and purpose.

#### ["SUBPART 1—STATE PERSONNEL PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

["Sec. 651. Purpose; definition; program authority.

["Sec. 652. Eligibility and collaborative process.

["Sec. 653. Applications.

["Sec. 654. Use of funds.

["Sec. 655. Authorization of appropriations.

#### ["SUBPART 2—SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MODEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

["Sec. 660. Purpose.

["Sec. 661. Administrative provisions.